

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5371

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DEPARTMENT PASS OPIC

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EIND, BC

SUBJ: INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN CATTLE RANCHING: VISIT OF

OPIC CATTLE CONSULTANT ALBERT C. KELLY

REF : STATE 045121

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: OPIC CONSULTANT ALBERT C. KELLY HAD PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO BOTSWANA. HE CONCLUDED THERE EXCELLENT POTENTIAL FOR U. S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN BOTSWANA'S CATTLE SECTOR. KELLY IDENTIFIED THREE AREAS WITH SPECIAL PROMISE AND PLANS RETURN IN SIX WEEKS WITH DRAFT PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. OPIC CATTLE CONSULTANT ALBERT C. KELLY DEPARTED BOTSWANA MAY 1 FOLLOWING PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL TWO-WEEK VISIT. BY COMBINING AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLES HE ABLE INSPECT VIRTUALLY ALL AREAS OF INTEREST. KELLY IDENTIFIED THREE PROSPECTS IN NORTHERN STATE LANDS WITH SPECIAL PROMISE: HE INTENDS RETURN IN SIX WEEKS WITH DRAFT PROPOSALS. TWO AREAS ADJOIN BOTZAM ROAD. PROPOSED RANCHES WOULD MARKET TO NEW "NORTHERN ABATTOIR" WHICH GOB PLANS TO ESTABPISH IN FUTURE.

3. KELLY ADVISED SEVERAL LARGE U.S. RANCHING AND FEEDLOT FIRMS

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HAVE DEFINITE INTEREST IN BOTSWANA INVESTMENT. POTENTIAL

INVESTORS INCLUDE KELLY BROTHERS (WITH INTERESTS IN OKLAHOMA, NEW MEXICO AND KANSAS), DIAMOND A CATTLE CO. IN NEW MEXICO, AND C.E. PARFET WHO HAS INTEREST IN TWO LARGE RANCHES IN KENYA. LATTER TWO INVESTORS, WITH OPIC INSURED CATTLE OPERATIONS ABROAD, WERE FEATURED IN 1973 OPIC ANNUAL REPORT.

4. KELLY MET MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND HIS PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LANDS, NUMEROUS OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE CATTLE PRODUCERS. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CAUTIONED THAT GOB HAS NOT DELINEATED CLEARLY DEFINED POLICY FOR LEASING IN STATE LANDS. AT SAME TIME HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN PROJECT AND URGED KELLY TO PREPARE PROPOSAL. BOTSWANA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BDC) VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECT OF JOINT VENTURE.

5. EMBASSY WISHES EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO OPIC FOR PROVIDING SERVICES OF KELLY WHOSE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION AND GENERATED ENTHUSIASM. WE OPTIMISTIC MODERN, LARGE-SCALE CATTLE INVESTMENT WILL RESULT WHICH WILL BENEFIT BOTSWANA ECONOMY AND SERVE TO ACHIEVE MAJOR USG OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING U.S. FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE RENDER ALL ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE TO THIS WORTHWHILE UNDERTAKING.

6. TRIP REPORT BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY.
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